

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|              |  |                           |                |
|--------------|--|---------------------------|----------------|
| Applicant :  | Paul N. Stoving et al.                       | Art Unit :                | 2832           |
| Serial No. : | 10/802,409                                   | Examiner :                | Marina Fishman |
| Filed :      | March 16, 2004                               | Confirmation No.:         | 3843           |
|              |  | Notice of Allowance Date: | July 26, 2007  |
| Title :      | VACUUM ENCAPSULATION HAVING AN EMPTY CHAMBER |                           |                |

**MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants agree that claims 1-5, 8, 18, 22, and 24-28 are allowable. The statement of Reasons for Allowance at page 2 of the Notice of Allowance states that the prior art of record "does not teach or suggest, in combination with the claimed elements, a vacuum switching device with a seal provided around a vacuum interrupter and a hollow housing, adjacent to the vacuum interrupter, wherein the seal defines an air-filled cavity within the hollow housing and a tube provided through the seal and includes cured liquefied encapsulation material within the tube to block the passage of air between an exterior of the seal and the cavity."

For purposes of clarity, applicants notes that claim 1 recites a vacuum switching device including a vacuum interrupter, a current exchange housing adjacent to the vacuum interrupter, a seal provided around the vacuum interrupter and the current exchange housing so as to define a cavity within the current exchange housing and adjacent to the vacuum interrupter, and a capillary tube provided through the seal, the capillary tube disposed such that a first end of the capillary tube accesses the cavity and a second end of the capillary tube accesses an exterior of the seal.

Claim 18 recites a vacuum switching device including a vacuum interrupter, a hollow housing adjacent to the vacuum interrupter, a seal provided around the vacuum interrupter and the hollow housing, the seal defining an air-filled cavity within the hollow housing, and a tube provided through the seal and including cured liquefied encapsulation material within the tube to block the passage of air between an exterior of the seal and the cavity.

Moreover, applicants agree that the limitations recited in the Examiner's Reasons for Allowance are not taught or suggested by the art of record, and that the relevant independent claims are distinguished from the cited prior art for at least the reasons stated in the Reasons for Allowance, which are sufficient for allowance of those claims. Applicants do not concede that

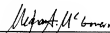
the stated reasons are the only grounds for patentability of the allowed claims, that the limitations excluded from the Reasons for Allowance are taught or suggested by the art of record, or that all of the limitations are necessary for patentability of the allowed claims or other claims directed to the disclosed subject matter.

Furthermore, the claims may be patentable for other reasons. In addition, the dependent claims are allowable on their own merits, and are allowable on the basis of a sub-combination of the recited features of the dependent claims and their respective base claims.

These comments are being filed concurrently with the payment of the issue and publication fees. Please apply any additional charges or credits to our Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 24, 2007

  
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